

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 075421
ORIGIN ACDA-12

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INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: MARCH 23 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL
INTEREST

LONDON FOR AMB/EX

1. BERNARD GWERTZMAN OF NEW YORK TIMES REPORTED THAT
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS SAID GROMYKO PROBABLY WOULD HEAD
SOVIET DELEGATION TO SSOD IN MAY AND JUNE, AND THERE WAS
"AN OUTSIDE POSSIBILITY" THAT BREZHNEV MIGHT COME TO U.S.
"WITH SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS AT LOW POINT, OFFICIALS
SAID, VISIT BY EITHER MR. GROMYKO OR MR. BREZHNEV WOULD
PRODUCE NEW ROUND OF TALKS ON SUCH ISSUES AS NEGOTIATIONS
FOR NEW STRATEGIC ARMS TREATY AND SOVIET ROLE IN ETHIOPIA
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PAGE 02 STATE 075421

AND MIDDLE EAST," GWERTZMAN REPORTED.

2. JOHN DILLIN OF CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR SAID STILL
UNPUBLISHED, 495-PAGE STUDY BY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS "PAINTS
AN AWESOME PICTURE OF SOVIET THREAT, BUT SUGGESTS U.S.
RESPONSE MAY REQUIRE SOME RADICAL DEPARTURES FROM USUAL
AMERICAN DEFENSE POLICIES." STUDY WAS PREPARED BY JOHN M.

COLLINS, RETIRED ARMY COLONEL AND SENIOR SPECIALIST IN NATIONAL DEFENSE FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS. DILLIN SAID STUDY, THOUGH STILL UNPUBLISHED, IS AVAILABLE IN LIMITED

NUMBERS TO REPORTERS FOR READING ON CAPITOL HILL. HE SAID COLLINS, IN AN INTERVIEW, NOTED THAT STUDY FOUND THAT THREE GREATEST NEEDS ARE FOR MORE AMERICAN MILITARY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, HIGHER LEVELS OF WEAPONS PROCUREMENT, AND THOROUGH EVALUATION OF STRATEGIC DEFENSE.

3. MURREY MARDER OF WASHINGTON POST SAID REPUBLICAN PARTY YESTERDAY ATTACKED CARTER ADMINISTRATION FOR "WEAKNESS" IN RESISTING SOVIET-CUBAN MILITARY POWER IN AFRICA AND CALLED FOR U.S. RETALIATION AGAINST MOSCOW AND HAVANA. REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TOLD REPORTERS "BASIC FALLACY OF CARTER ADMINISTRATION IN FOREIGN POLICY HAS BEEN THEIR REFUSAL TO ACCEPT CONCEPT OF LINKAGE." MARDER OBSERVED THAT FRED C. IKLE, FORMER ACDA DIRECTOR, "WAS IN NEW POLITICAL ROLE YESTERDAY IN DISCUSSING ONGOING U.S.-SOVIET STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TALKS, KNOWN AS SALT TWO, WHICH BEGAN DURING HIS 1973-76 TERM IN OFFICE. AS CHAIRMAN OF REPUBLICAN ADVISORY COUNCIL ON NATIONAL SECURITY AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, IKLE CHARGED CARTER ADMINISTRATION WITH FLINCHING ON 'LINKING' SALT NEGOTIATIONS TO SOVIET ACTIONS IN AFRICA. UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 STATE 075421

THIS SALVO EVIDENTLY WILL BE CARRIED INTO THIS YEAR'S CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN."

4. STUDY BY SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE FOCUSES ON DILEMMA U.S. FACES IN PLANS TO SELL 60 F-15 FIGHTER PLANES TO SAUDI ARABIA. RICHARD BURT SAID STAFF REPORT, COPY OF WHICH WAS OBTAINED BY NEW YORK TIMES, NOTED THAT SALE WOULD CAUSE ISRAEL TO TOUGHEN ITS NEGOTIATING POSITION "BECAUSE IT FEARS GREATER THREAT TO ITS SECURITY." DEAL ALSO WOULD UNDERMINE CREDIBILITY OF CARTER'S POLICY OF CUTTING BACK ON ARMS EXPORTS BECAUSE IT WOULD "BE SEEN BY OTHER ARMS SUPPLIERS AS FINAL INDICATION THAT U.S. IS NOT SERIOUS ABOUT IMPLEMENTING ARMS RESTRAINT," BURT SAID. "BUT NOTING THAT SAUDI ARABIA 'WILL REMAIN COUNTRY MOST CRITICAL IN DETERMINING WORLD OIL PRODUCTION AND PRICE LEVELS,' STUDY CONCLUDES THAT DISAPPROVAL OF SALE COULD RISK SAUDI COOPERATION 'ON WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES.'"

5. DAVID BURNHAM OF NEW YORK TIMES REPORTED THAT 22-YEAR-OLD FORMER HARVARD STUDENT WITH ONLY ONE YEAR OF COLLEGE LEVEL PHYSICS HAS DESIGNED SERIES OF NUCLEAR

WEAPONS THAT TWO GOVERNMENT BOMB MAKERS INDICATED WERE HIGHLY CREDIBLE. DIMITRI ROTOW TOLD SENATE GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE'S SUBCOMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION YESTERDAY THAT HE DEVELOPED HIS DESIGNS FOR BOMBS IN LAST FIVE MONTHS FROM MATERIAL THAT WAS AVAILABLE

TO PUBLIC AND WITHOUT HELP OF "ANY GOVERNMENT, CORPORATION OR PERSON." BURNHAM SAID SPEED AND APPARENT EASE WITH WHICH ROTOW DEVISED HIS DESIGNS PROMPTED SENATORS GLENN AND RIBICOFF TO ASK PRESIDENT TO CONSIDER SIGNIFICANT TIGHTENING OF CONTROLS SURROUNDING SPECIAL NUCLEAR MATERIALS THAT COULD BE TURNED INTO HOMEMADE WEAPONS. "SENATORS MADE THEIR REQUEST FOR MORE EFFECTIVE SAFEGUARDS, INCLUDING POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL

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PAGE 04 STATE 075421

FEDERAL POLICY FORCE TO PROTECT PLUTONIUM AND HIGHLY ENRICHED URANIUM AT MEETING WITH MR. CARTER LAST THURSDAY (MARCH 16)," BURNHAM REPORTED. DR. THEODORE TAYLOR, FORMER MEMBER OF TEAM DESIGNING NUCLEAR WEAPONS AT LOS ALAMOS, SAID ROTOW'S "MANUSCRIPT IS MOST EXTENSIVE AND DETAILED EXPOSITION THAT I HAVE SEEN OUTSIDE CLASSIFIED LITERATURE." DR. J. CARSON MARK, WHO FORMERLY HEADED LOS ALAMOS TEAM, SAID WHILE HIS REVIEW OF ROTOW'S MANUSCRIPT INDICATED THAT HE HAD MADE SOME ERRORS, HIS PAPER WAS "VERY IMPRESSIVE." VANCE

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